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RIC ASSISTS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN RURAL AREAS

A Morrisville Vermont County Extension Service agent contacted RIC in November 1987. A handicapped, small-business client seeking a Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) grant needed the names of electrical contractors who build variable small speed DC motors. He planned to use the motor on his specialized wheel chair invention. He had hit a deadend in his search for this information, without which he could not complete his SBIR grant application.

RIC identified an appropriate contact organization, placed a call to the Small Motors Manufacturing Association and obtained the name of a key contact person. The contact then provided the names of seven East Coast companies and agreed to act as a referral contact and to provide technical assistance.

The Vermont businessman recently learned that his SBIR development grant request for \$45,000 was approved.

RIC PROCEEDS WITH ESTABLISHING A STATE LIBRARY NETWORK

RIC recently contacted the state library directors in thirty-eight states in which the RIC program has been networked with the Cooperative Extension Service. Other state library directors will be contacted as soon as the RIC Extension network is established in their state.

RIC is establishing this network with the State Libraries with the cooperation and approval of the Rural Library Services Committee of the American Library Association. RIC is asking each library to name a representative from their staff to coordinate with RIC and Extension staff. The library representative will assist extension staff in locating, at either the local or state level, those information resources that were identified by The Rural Information Center in response to a request from their respective state.



Fourteen State Library representatives have been named for the RIC program. They are: Maureen Crocker, Colorado; Laura Hodges, Florida; JoEllen Ostendorf, Georgia; Bill Cochran, Iowa; Mark Galbraith, Kansas; Roger Sween, Minnesota; Sharman Smith,

Mississippi; Marlys Davis, Missouri; Mary Redmond, New York; Mary Hardin, Oklahoma; Fran Schell, Tennessee; Edith Blankenship, Utah; Linda Morrisett, Virginia; and Donna Calvert, West Virginia.

RIC BIBLIOGRAPHIES

Population Migration in Rural America, 1979-1988. 87 citations. Prepared by Patricia La Caille John. March 1989.

Rural Leadership, 1979-1988. 126 citations. Prepared by Patricia La Caille John. March 1989.

Transportation Services in Rural Areas, 1979-1988. 137 citations. Patricia La Caille John. March 1989.

RIC OUTREACH

• Exhibits

North Central Rural Development Center's Conference, "Empowering Rural Communities: Community Leadership for Economic Development," St. Louis, MO, March 28-30. Beth Walter Honadle, Extension Service Economic Development National Program Leader, coordinated the exhibit.

• Presentations

Patricia John gave RIC overviews to participants of the VPI/Virginia State University, Virginia

Rural Leadership Development Program and the Pennsylvania State University, Pennsylvania Leadership (RULE) Program. The two groups visited NAL in March.

FORTY-SEVEN STATES AND GUAM PARTICIPATE IN THE RIC PROJECT

The State Cooperative Extension Service Directors named the following new RIC State Coordinators: Clair Christensen, California; Michael Mooney, Nevada; Verne House, South Carolina; and Nancy Sanders, Washington. This brings the total number of RIC participants to forty-eight.

FY89 RURAL INFORMATION CENTER ANALYSIS

- User location
- Rural topics
- Affiliation

Breakdown of Rural Revitalization Questions

Economic Viability.....	61%
Quality of Life/Natural Resources	22%
Local Government Services	13%
Leadership/Community Change.....	4%

States, Territories, Etc. Submitting Highest Number of Requests

District of Columbia	14%
Maryland.....	9%
Texas.....	5%
New Mexico, Virginia, Wisconsin, (4% each)	12%
Alaska, Illinois, Montana, Pennsylvania (3% each)	12%
California, Georgia, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, Michigan, Minnesota, North Carolina, Ohio, Utah, Washington, Foreign Countries (2% each)	26%
All Others (27 states).....	22%

Affiliation Breakdown

State and County Extension Staff	42%
Individuals.....	14%
USDA Officials.....	12%
Universities.....	7%
Libraries.....	6%
Community/Rural/Economic Organizations, Businesses (4% each)	8%
Federal Officials (non-USDA) & Public Interest Groups (3% each)	6%
State Officials and Foreign Officials (2% each).....	4%
Congress.....	1%